



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 2

April 29, 2019

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Robert Law, Ph.D.
de maximis, inc.
186 Center Street, Suite 290
Clinton, New Jersey 08809

Re: Draft 2012 Fish Tissue Survey and Chemistry Background Data for the Lower Passaic River Study Area, dated July 22, 2015

Dear Dr. Law:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the *Draft 2012 Fish Tissue Survey and Chemistry Background Data for the Lower Passaic River Study Area*, dated July 22, 2015, prepared by Windward Environmental LLC on behalf of the Cooperating Parties Group (CPG).

EPA provided comments on October 04, 2018 and the CPG submitted responses to the comments on November 05, 2018. EPA reviewed these responses to comments and the revised report and determined that all comments were addressed with the exception of minor changes to comments 16, 25, 53, and 55. EPA conditionally approves the report as long as comments 16, 25, 53, and 55 are addressed. Please finalize the report in accordance with Section X, Paragraph 44(a) of the Agreement. If there are any questions or clarifications needed, please contact me to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Diane Salkie", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Diane Salkie, Remedial Project Manager
Lower Passaic River Study Area RI/FS

Cc: Zizila, F. (EPA)
Sivak, M. (EPA)
Hyatt, B. (CPG)
Potter, W. (CPG)

No.	Section	Comment 10/4/2018	Response 11/5/2018	EPA Response
16	Page 13, Section 3, third paragraph, second sentence	Please correct the typo in the scientific name for white sucker. <i>Catastomus commersoni</i> should be changed to <i>Catostomus commersonii</i> . Please make this change throughout the document and appendices as needed (e.g., Table 3-1).	Scientific name for white sucker has been corrected throughout the report and Appendix G.	The changes were made in the text. However, changes were not made in Appendix G. Please make the changes.
25	Pages 25 through 37, Figures 5-1 through 5-7	Please revise these figures as follows: Symbols (shapes and colors) representing the different types of tissue samples should be consistent across all figures. Include a separate figure for each fish species for consistency. Revise the legend so that the symbols for "River Mile," "River," and "LPRSA" are not listed under the heading "catch location." Revise the legend so that the symbols for "Reach 9" and "Reach 10" are not listed under the heading "Tissue." Ensure that all text (i.e., the service layer credits) fits within the border of the figure.	Figure symbols and legends have been revised as requested. Figures have also been revised to separate information by species (including forage fish to Figures 5-1 to 5-11).	Response accepted; the change has been verified. However, please ensure that draft figures are not included in the final document. The draft Figures 5-2 and 5-3 were included and should be deleted.
53	Pages 172 through 174, Section 6.5	The concentrations reported in the discussion of PCB congeners are rounded to three significant figures, while the corresponding concentrations in Table 6-7 are rounded to two significant figures. Please revise this section for consistency between Table 6-7 and the discussion in the text.	Total PCB congener values for minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation have been revised to reflect 3 significant figures to be consistent with the concentrations presented in Table 6-7.	Response accepted. However, fish fillet on page 188 shows the minimum concentration as 9.01 instead of 9.00 which is the minimum concentration for brown bullhead.
55	Page 172, Section 6.5, first bullet, second sentence	Please add a reference to footnote 11 at the end of this sentence.	Reference to footnote 13 has been added (this footnote describes how the sample is a composite from Reaches 9 and 10). Footnote 11 discusses the log scale on LPAH figures and does not seem applicable.	Due to multiple correction and addition of footnote, the correct footnote number is 16.